



*5th July 2013*

## **CHURCH NGOs NOT TO AVOID SCRUTINY**

Hon. Dr Deborah Schembri, as Chairperson of the Social Affairs Committee, is reported to have stated (Times of Malta, 4th July 2013) that “Church NGOs are receiving state funds but at the same time they expect to be exempt from scrutiny on the donations given to them”. This is an incorrect judgement.

The Church clearly stated that this is not the case in a letter (dated 26th July 2012) sent to former Minister, Dr Chris Said. The same letter was forwarded to Minister Dr Helena Dalli on May 10, 2013. A meeting was held with the Hon. Dr Dalli in the presence of Prof. Kenneth Wain, Commissioner.

The Church Authorities have raised a number of issues arising from the legislation that are a cause for concern. During the long series of discussions, agreement was reached on a number of these issues.

The Church Authorities believe that since discussions are still ongoing, it is not prudent to disclose the contents of the said discussions.